

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 DHA-02 SS-15

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P 201430Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY LOME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1052

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (WILSON, JAMES WILLIAM)

SUBJ: DETENTION OF AMERICAN CITIZEN

REF: STATE 205023

1. IN TELEPHONE CALL TO EMBASSY FROM HIS OFFICE, WILSON ADVISED THAT HE IS BEING PERMITTED WORK THIS WEEK AND NEXT WEEK BUT IS BEING RETURNED TO GENDARMERIE CAMP AT NIGHT. HE NOTED THAT TOGOLESE EMPLOYEES OF HIS FIRM WHO HAVE BEEN HELD PENDING RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION HAVE NOW BEEN RELEASED, AND IS ONCE AGAIN OPTIMISTIC THAT NO CHARGES WILL BE PROFFERED AND THAT HE WILL BE RELEASED WITHIN MATTER OF WEEKS.

2. WILSON EXPRESSED DISMAY THAT HIS MOTHER HAD WIRED PRESIDENT FORD, AND ASKED THAT HIS FAMILY BE INFORMED THAT TRAVEL OF FAMILY MEMBER TO TOGO WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE HELPFUL.

3. COMMENT: RE PARAGRAPH 3B OF THE REFERENCE, IT IS EVIDENT TO CONSOFF THAT WILSON WAS TRYING TO ENGINEER SOME KIND OF EMBASSY INITIATIVE ON HIS BEHALF AND FELT THAT SOME CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE TOWARD THAT END WOULD BE USEFUL. REOPENING OF INVESTIGATION OF HIS MISMANAGEMENT OF FIRM FORCED HIM TO SWITCH TACTICS MIDSTREAM AND REQUEST THAT EMBASSY NOT ATTEMPT PRESSURE TOGOLESE GOVERNMENT INTO RELEASING HIM BEFORE CHARGES PROFFERED. DEPARTMENT SHOULD
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BE AWARE THAT IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH CONSOFF AND WITH TOGOLESE

INVESTIGATORS, WILSON HAS ADMITTED THAT THERE IS SUBSTANTIAL
TRUTH TO CERTAIN TOGOLESE ALLEGATIONS OF FINANCIAL MISMANAGEMENT
OF FIRM, BUT HAS CLAIMED EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES (LACK OF TIME
AND TRAINED LOCAL PERSONNEL TO KEEP CLOSE TRACK OF CASH FLOW)
SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DECIDING EXTENT OF HIS COMPLICITY.
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